

Message Text

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FOR STATE, ASST. SEC. MAYNES, AND USDA, ASST. SEC. HATHAWAY
FROM AMB. GARDNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WFC
SUBJECT: DR. HANNAH'S CALL ON AMB. GARDNER

SUMMARY: DR. HANNAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), AT HS REQUEST, CALLED ON AMB. GARDNER ON FEB. 22 TO DISCUSS: (A) U.S. REPRESENTATION AT WFC MINISTERIAL MEETING; (B) THE DETERIORATING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAO AND THE WFC; (C) SAOUMA'S DESIRE TO ELIMINATE WFC; (D) THE LOCATION OF THE WFC; AND (D) HIS SUPPORT FOR MAURICE WILLIAMS, A POSSIBLE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFC. HANNAH ASKED THAT AMB. GARDNER PASS HIS VIEWS ON TO THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

1. DR. HANNAH, IN A CALL ON AMB. GARDNER ON FEB. 22, STATED THERE IS A NEED FOR BROADER MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS OF WFC. HE STRESSED THIS IS NOT TO DOWNPLAY THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE LIKE BERGLAND COME, BUT RATHER TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING TO INCLUDE MINISTERS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENTAL AID. (COMMENT: THIS IS ALSO TO COUNTERACT SAOUMA'S STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 ABOUT NEED FOR WFC.)

2. DR. HANNAH STATED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WFC AND FAO HAD BEEN IMPROVING, AFTER GETTING OFF TO A VERY ROCKY
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START, UNTIL RECENTLY WHEN THE IFAD WAS ESTABLISHED IN ROME. SINCE DECEMBER, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED CHANGE IN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN FAO AND THE WFC AS FAO HAS BEEN REJECTING MOST OF THE REQUESTS MADE BY WFC, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. HANNAH SAID WHEN HAD LOOKED INTO THIS SITUATION HE FOUND THAT THE DG HAD ISSUED ORDERS THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR SERVICES FOR WFC HAD TO BE CLEARED BY DE MEREDIEU OF SAOUMA'S OFFICE.

DE MEREDIEU INDICATED THAT ALL REQUESTS, NO MATTER WHAT, HAD TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION. HANNAH BELIEVED AT FIRST THIS WAS ONLY TEMPORARY SITUATION UNTIL THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IFAD AND FAO WERE WORKED OUT. HE NOTED THAT IFAD WAS HAVING A SIMILAR PROBLEM ON THEIR REQUESTS FOR SERVICES AS ALL REQUESTS FROM IFAD HAD TO BE CLEARED BY YRIART. HANNAH WAS HOPEFUL HE COULD WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH FAO ON THIS PROBLEM. LAST WEEK HANNAH MET WITH SAOUMA AND, ACCORDING TO HANNAH, SAOUMA, WHILE NOT SAYING SO DIRECTLY, MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT IT WAS HIS OBJECTIVE TO DESTROY THE WFC. FOR EXAMPLE, SAOUMA INDICATED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEMISE OF THE CGIPI. ALSO, WHY WAS THERE ANY NEED FOR A WFC MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE WHEN FAO HAD HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS EACH YEAR? FINALLY, THAT IN THE FUTURE FAO WOULD NEED THE OFFICE SPACE OCCUPIED BY THE WFC AND WOULD ARRANGE FOR THEM TO MOVE TO ANOTHER FAO BUILDING SUCH AS BUILDING F OR G. TO HANNAH THIS CLEARLY SPELLS OUT SAOUMA'S INTENTION TO ELIMINATE THE WFC AFTER HANNAH STEPS DOWN THIS YEAR AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

4. CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WFC, HANNAH INDICATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NORWEGIAN CANDIDATE, MR. AASLANDS, COULD STAND UP TO SAOUMA. HE SAID SAOUMA WOULD "EAT HIM ALIVE." CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF DR. BELL, HANNAH FELT AS HE IS ALREADY RETIRED IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE TWO RETIRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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AID IN SUCCESSION--THEY NEEDED A YOUNG MAN. THE MAN HE SUGGESTED THAT WOULD BE IDEAL FOR THE JOB WAS MAURICE WILLIAMS, THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE DAC OF OECD. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO WILLIAMS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY AND SAID WILLIAMS WOULD ACCEPT IT IF OFFERED. HANNAH STATED STRONGLY THAT HE BELIEVED THAT HIS REPLACEMENT HAD TO BE YOUNG, AGGRESSIVE, AND HAVE AN OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN ORDER TO STAND UP TO SAOUMA.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION HANNAH INDICATED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY FOR THE WFC TO MOVE OUT OF FAO IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. HE INDICATED HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE THAT THE COUNCIL LOCATE CLOSE TO THE NEW IFAD HEADQUARTERS SO THAT IT COULD USE ITS FACILITIES ON THE CONDITIONS THAT: (A) IFAD STAYED IN ROME, AND (B) THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY THE RENT WHICH IT IS CURRENTLY DOING. SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE WFC'S SURVIVAL; WHILE HANNAH DID NOT RULE OUT SHIFTING THE HEADQUARTERS TO OTHER CITIES SUCH AS VIENNA, HE FELT IT WAS PREFERABLE FOR IT TO STAY IN ROME.

6. HANNAH INDICATED THAT BOTH THE SUBJECT OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN WFC AND FAO AND THE QUESTION OF THE SITE OF THE WFC

WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT BUREAU MEETING OF THE WFC IN EARLY MARCH. HE STATED HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET HOLD OF TANCO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, FOR THE LAST 10 DAYS TO DISCUSS THESE AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS, BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO. HE HOPES TO CONTACT HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND PROBABLY GO TO MANILA TO SEE HIM. HE REALIZES THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME FOR TANCO AS HE IS RUNNING FOR ELECTION WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE IN APRIL.

7. HANNAH ASKED THAT HIS OPINIONS BE HANDLED DISCREETLY AS HE DID NOT WANT TO MUDDY THE WATERS PREMATURELY AS WHATEVER IS DONE IN THESE AREAS WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT BEFORE THE MEETING. THESE ISSUES COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE WFC MEETING UNDER ITEM II OF THE AGENDA WHICH
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DEALS IN PART WITH THE FAO/WFC AGREEMENT. HE DID, HOWEVER, WANT TO PASS ON HIS VIEWS TO THE AMBASSADOR SO THAT HE MAY MAKE THEM KNOWN AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN WASHINGTON.
GARDNER

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